

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the April 14, 2020 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Morin the meeting of April 14, 2020 at 7:01 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Chairman Morin

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Marilyn McGrath, Kara Roy, Normand Martin

Selectman Coutu participated remotely from his residence due to the covid-19 pandemic

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Fire Chief Rob Buxton; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

4. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Benson Park Committee - (5 vacancies - 3 member terms to expire 4/30/20; 2 alternate term one to expire 4/30/20 and one to expire 4/30/22)

Ralph Alio (incumbent member)  
Paula Hubert (incumbent member)

*Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Ralph Alio and Paula Hubert each as full members to the Benson Park Committee with terms to expire 4/30/23. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 5-0.*

Sustainability Committee - (3 vacancies - 2 member terms to expire 4/30/20; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/20)

Deb Putnam (incumbent member)

*Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Deb Putnam as a full member to the Sustainability Committee with a term to expire 4/30/23. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.*

Cable Utility Committee - (2 vacancies - 2 member terms to expire 4/30/20)

Stewart Kroner (incumbent member)

*Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Deb Putnam as a full member to the Sustainability Committee with a term to expire 4/30/23. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.*

5. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Morin asked does any Board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration. Selectman Martin requested that Item 5C-1 be removed for separate consideration. *Selectman Martin then made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to approve consent items A, D, E and F. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.*

A. Assessing Items

- 1) All Veterans Tax Credits: map 151, lot 027, sub 001 - 13A Rangers Drive
- 2) Disabled Exemption: map 178, lot 13, sub 069 - 32 Mobile Drive

B. Water/Sewer Items - None at this time

C. Donations

- 1) \$100.00 donation to the Hudson Police Department for Comfort Dog, Haven, from The Rotary Club of Hudson-Litchfield
- 2) \$200.00 Sam's Club gift card to Town of Hudson from Hudson United Soccer Club

D. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the March 18, 2020 Meeting
- 2) Minutes of the March 24, 2020 Meeting
- 3) Minutes of the March 31, 2020 Meeting

E. Calendar

- |      |      |                    |                     |
|------|------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 4/21 | 7:00 | Board of Selectmen | BOS Meeting Room    |
| 4/22 | 7:00 | Planning Board     | Buxton Meeting Room |

Hudson Speedway

Hudson Speedway removed from consent items for separate consideration by Selectman Martin. Selectman Martin stated the reason I asked for this to be pulled is in reading the report from Inspectional Services it asks the owner has mentioned he will be looking for an area that sells beer and he has explained what bleachers will be used in that area. Then I read the Chief of Police report and number one on his list says no alcoholic beverages will be sold, served, dispensed or consumed at the racetrack. So is the owner aware that he can't sell beer? To which the Town Administrator replied, yes he is. This is the permit for the basic race season. He's made a separate request to change Town Code to possibly allow alcohol sales. The problem with changing Town Code is you need two public hearings. While we're in this pandemic we don't recommend you have public hearings and subject the public to that. So I've communicated with him and said that's deferred until we get past this pandemic. So the permit would be, he applied for the permit, he understands the terms and conditions are to the Town Code as it currently is. Separate request for that, that's not part of this. This would be approving his permit following Town Code, no alcohol sales this season. Selectman McGrath stated, so whoever is going to make the motion to approve, I would include the language that there should be no alcohol sales on the premises until the Town Code has been changed. Town Administrator Malizia stated, if I may, the motion would be, to approve the Hudson Speedway license to operate a motor vehicle race track for the 2020 Season with the conditions required by the Police Chief, which specifies the no alcohol per the Town Code, and the Inspectional Services Division and subject to the State of New

Hampshire Covid-19 State of Emergency restrictions. The permit and the license both reflect that if gathering gets delayed, this would be delayed. So made sure I covered that.

Selectman Coutu said I'm ready to make that motion Mr. Chairman. To which the Chairman replied, that would be the one the Town Administrator just read? Selectman Coutu said, if you want me to re-read it I can. The Town Administrator read it saying, the motion would be to approve the Hudson Speedway license to operate a motor vehicle race track for the 2020 season with the conditions required by the Police Chief and the Inspectional Services Division and subject to the State of New Hampshire Covid-19 State of Emergency restrictions. The motion was seconded by Selectman Roy. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on April 4, 2020

Selectman McGrath made a motion seconded by Selectman Roy to seal the minutes of the non-public session. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Martin made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m., seconded by Selectman Roy. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Covid-19 Update from Chief Buxton

Chief Buxton started telling the Board, good evening members of the Board. I'm here with you weekly update regarding the covid-19 incident we're working. I provided you with three documents today for your package. One is the briefing, one is the costings associated with covid-19 and one is the incident action plan for this week that we're currently working through.

To date the United States has 582,000 cases. Worldwide we've seen over 120,000 deaths. In the United States as of today, we've had 23,654 deaths. In the State of New Hampshire we have 1,020 positive cases. With 27 deaths. Your packet says 23, they updated that number this afternoon. So that number has moved to 27. We have 398 cases of covid-19 in Hillsborough County. Hudson has moved from 1-4 to 10-19 cases within Town. So that's a pretty significant shift from where we were last Tuesday when I was here for case volume.

As we continue to move through our process if you caught the HCTV piece last Friday, Dr. Chan reported out on the impact of the community mitigation efforts that the State of New Hampshire has pushed forward. Although they're not using the words that it's working, they using the words that it's having an effect. The social distancing, the stay at home order, the remote learning, the closing of the essential businesses, we have not seen the rapid increase like the State of Massachusetts has seen or New York City. Our bubble, our surge has been more of a long drawn camel back type event. They're expressing that they continue to see that plateau and that long drawn out piece to continue and they express that it is also very important at this time that we stay very vigilant with our practices. Their concern is that as the weather gets good and everybody wants to get outside that we try to keep our social distance and only do those essential things that we're permitted to do currently underneath the State of Emergency.

Last week when I was here we reported out that we had received 15 rapid test kits from a company, Abbott Labs out of Scarborough Maine. They did receive those test kits. They have two of those machines up and running and that is because the supplies for the kits have been a little slow in coming in. So as they get more supplies they'll certainly put more of those test kits out. But as of today they have two up and running in the State for rapid testing.

To date our goals continue to be the same as they were last week. Provide employees with a healthy, safe work environment. And then continue to provide services to the community. Which I believe that we have done.

We continue to accomplish this through the Continuity of Operations Plan. We had several guidelines that were put into place last week regarding remote working, earned time usage, secondary employment. We reviewed all of the emergency orders that the Governor had pushed out. Those have been reviewed for impact on the community. We also did our messaging regarding the recreational programs and the conservation areas for the public hiking capabilities. We continue to review the CDC guidance that's out there.

This weekend kudos to the Rec Director and his staff for pulling together the Easter Bunny Parade. That was probably one of the highlights of the week for everybody as we saw the videos that continue to move around. So we're very happy with that.

We've also pushed out the performance surveys. We put an employee questionnaire along with a performance survey. Not that the event is over, but what can we identify as we continue to move forward. This afternoon I was on a call and they're still talking about we'll probably see the impact of another school pushout coming by the end of the week. Potentially even another 30 days of our current activities. That is what they're forecasting as we sit here tonight.

We continue to track all of our activities. We're still waiting on the educational opportunities regarding the reimbursement pieces and they're working out some difficulties of getting the federal program implemented into the state. So they continue to push that through. To date we've spent \$42,516. The bulk of that has been attributed to overtime costs when the openings. We had six firefighters that were under quarantine. We had two police officers that were under quarantine. So the associated costs for that was \$24,582 dollars for those quarantine periods. I'm happy to report tonight that you have no public safety officials in quarantine any longer. Everybody has been cleared. Those that were in quarantine, never became symptomatic for covid-19 or tested positive for covid-19. So they've all reported back to work. We still have one public works employee that is in isolation. That's from an external exposure, not from a work related exposure.

Our goals this week as we continue to communicate our plan we continue to implement the goals for the week inclusive of, we've brought Brian Groth on board to basically bolster our business practices and get as much information out to our business community as the State makes those programs through the State EOC. We're trying to get that information to the right hands so we can get that information pushed out. So we brought Brian into the EOC mix and he has been more than willing to jump in with both feet and get that pushed forward. We continue to look at our employee safety and health plans and what that's going to look like long-term as we get closer to what they consider to be a phased reopening to the State. We also have identified a goal is to trying to continue to improve this practice of virtual meetings and looked at some employee payroll changes, electronic distribution, and those types of things.

I'm certainly open to answer any questions you might have on any of the documents I've provided you tonight, to the best of my ability. But that is pretty much the activity in a nutshell for the week since the last time I was here.

Selectman McGrath asked the employees that were in quarantine, and they were exposed to the covid-19, are they going to be able to be tested at some point to see if they have some

immunity to it? Chief Buxton replied, that's a great question. Up until two hours ago they were not offering any asymptomatic testing in the State of New Hampshire. This afternoon at the press conference that the Governor held, he announced they'll be testing 6,600 asymptomatic long term health care facility employees to see if that is any benefit to looking at their benchmark to the long-term care impacts to the covid-19 events. Of the 27 deaths that we've had in New Hampshire the bulk of those deaths have been related to long-term care facilities. They at this point have not offered that to first responders. They have offered us the ability, if we're symptomatic, to get our testing done and pushed through the system quicker, but they are not offering asymptomatic testing. The second piece to that is they also have created an environment, where they're pushing what we have termed source testing, so if you're positive for covid-19 and you expose me as a first responder, we would get you tested and your test also goes to the front of the line to basically let us know if you're positive or not. So that's how they're handling the difference between frontline first responders and long-term health care piece. Selectman McGrath said, I'm not even sure that that test is available nationally. I listen to the reports pretty much every day and it seems to me that they're not offering that. They're really close to having it available. Chief Buxton added, one of the pieces that came out when they said they were testing 6,600 employees in long-term care facilities, we obviously raised our hand and said what is that going to do for testing State-wide. All of that collection of the samples will be done locally. The testing is actually going to be done at MIT and private universities. So it won't be done by the Public Health lab in the State of New Hampshire. So that's how they're kind of pushing that around.

Selectman Martin asked, are all the deaths that we had in New Hampshire confirmed covid-19 cases or are they elderly that have passed from other illnesses? Chief Buxton responded, great question. Right now all 27 of those deaths are confirmed covid-19 positive patients. You can't get on the list, you don't show up as a positive death from the State without having that test run. Some of the impacts to the testing that was done, approximately 14 days ago Huntington of Nashua on Kent Lane had an outbreak. They had some associated deaths. The testing is now just starting to come back. That's why you're starting to see that number creep up because they move over from a confirmed case to a death. That's how that takes place.

Selectman Martin then asked, not related to the covid-19, have you seen an increase or decrease in overdose from the drug thing we had going on before this hit? To which the Chief replied, no, we talked last time I was here, about the change in our response modeling. So we're actually seeing a lot more of this type of illness, flu-type symptoms and those types of things. Our overdoses have kind of fallen off a little bit. Some of that is because of the social distancing. Folks aren't out around as much as they were before so we'll attribute it to that.

Selectman Coutu asked, typically Chief, a person who is asymptomatic, what is the period of time they should isolate themselves? Chief Buxton responded, asymptomatic person that's been exposed is 14 days. That depends on the date of the projected exposure. So we had four first responders in the Fire Department, I'm going to use them as an example, that have been quarantined for 14 days. But their exposure was four days prior to our notification. So they were in quarantine for 10 days because they 10 and the 4 equal the 14. That's the way that works. It depends on the date of exposure. Public Health on the private side, not just the first responder side, but you sitting at home, if you get notified by Public Health that they feel like you had an exposure, they do a pretty intensive investigation trying to track a person's steps. So they can track the projected bubble of exposure that is available. You may get a phone call from them says, hey, you're probably unaware but Selectman Martin was at the grocery store today standing next to you and he is now positive and he said he had a conversation with you so you're on the list for us to notify. That's the way some of those things would take place.

Selectman Coutu then asked, how long has the employee from the Public Works Department been in isolation. Chief Buxton replied, they came on the list last Tuesday, I think it was. They had just gone on the list. So they'll be coming up this week on the end of their 14 days.

Seeing no further questions for the Chief, Chairman Morin thanked Chief Buxton for his update.

8. REMARKS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD - no School Board member present

9. REMARKS BY THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town Administrator said thank you to the Chief, I want to thank all of our employees for doing the best they can. It's been kind of different but I think most people have stepped up and tried to do the job to the best of their ability. So thank you.

10. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY SELECTMEN

Selectman Coutu - yes, I want to echo the remarks made by the Town Administrator and add to that. I took great pleasure going down through the intersection closest to my house where I knew the Easter bunny caravan was going to go by. It broke up an otherwise monotonous Easter, except that the time spent with Doris is not monotonous, I have to say that. I also want to thank the Fire and Police Department for escorting the caravan. They added an awful lot of smiles to the people along the route. I've seen like most of you, a lot of the videos that are being posted on Facebook relative to the caravan. I want to thank, again, the Emergency Management Team for doing an outstanding job for the Town of Hudson and more importantly I'd like to thank the citizens of Hudson for adhering to what we never thought we would have to become accustomed to, wearing gloves, wearing masks, keeping a safe social distance away from people. I know that our numbers are now somewhere between 10-15 here in Hudson but I see other towns of comparative size in Massachusetts and in New Hampshire that are doing a lot worse than we are.

Selectman Martin - I wanted to ask members of the Board is interested in taking up this topic of the Conservation Commission. To dispense whether at all tonight or you want to wait for another time. Selectman Roy said this should be an agenda item. To which Selectman Martin said, thank you, that's all I've got.

Selectman McGrath - I'll just echo the comments that Selectman Coutu just gave as well as the Town Administrator. I think that everyone that is adhering to the recommendations and trying to prevent this despicable epidemic to continue and to grow. I heard the other day, I didn't hear the full report so I haven't repeated it, but part of it was that the State of New Hampshire was among the top in the country for having a reduced rate because they're following the guidelines. That's something that everybody should be pleased about. Just to go one step further, I think that the Police and Fire Departments, as I said at the last meeting, our first responders, they must be under tremendous pressures. Especially when they go out on calls. They're dealing with people that may have this virus. It's got to be a worry for them and a worry for them that they're taking this home to their families. I thank them for their continued good work for the Town of Hudson.

Selectman Roy - Just to add to what everybody else is saying. I continue to be impressed with the generosity of the people of this community. People just keep giving back. Businesses that just keep giving back. It makes me proud to be a member of the community.

Chairman Morin - I'd just like to echo and I can speak for what Selectman Roy is talking about. This morning the Hudson True Value donated their truck to go up to the Food Pantry to get a very large amount of supplies for the Food Pantry. That's just one business in Town that's been doing it. T-Bones has been donating. I don't want to just focus on the Food Pantry because it's happening everywhere for all kinds of organizations it's great to see the Town step up. We always have in the past. It's just good to see it continue.

This is Telecommunicators Week. I want to recognize our Dispatchers from the Police and Fire. We don't talk about them very much but they're dealing with this whole problem as much as the Police Officers and Firefighters out on the streets, and they're confined to a little room. So I want to thank them for all the work they're doing. They affected by this as much as everybody else.

The Police Union worked with the Police Chief, you may see the Police Officers looking a little different for the next month or so. They're allowing to beards and they're letting the Dispatchers dress down and they even, want to make sure I say this correctly, they're allowing the female officers to do something with their hair. I'll leave it at that. Color it or something. But what it was if the officers were going to participate there was a donation. As of this afternoon the Chief had sent me an email saying they raised \$650 which will also go to the Food Pantry. So I just want to thank them.

11. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman McGrath seconded by Selectman Roy, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Morin entered Nonpublic Session at 7:29 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman Morin entered open session at 7:40 p.m.

Selectman Roy made a motion seconded by Selectman Coutu to reduce payment on back taxes for the requested property to \$1,000 a month until the Emergency Order has been lifted by the Governor. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to exit nonpublic session. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. by Selectman Roy seconded by Selectman Martin. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant.

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David S. Morin, Chairman

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Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman

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Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

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Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

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Normand G. Martin, Selectman